

A publication
for friends of
ACS.

Ames Christian School

Excellence in Education Through Christ

Issue VI

May 2011

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Live Healthy Iowa Kids!

This semester, Lori Adams and the students at ACS participated in the Live Healthy Iowa Kids program. The students were placed on teams lead by the 5th and 6th grade students. During the 100 days, the students counted vegetable servings, fruit servings, glasses of water, and hours of screen time. The small teams would meet periodically and discuss their progress. This was a great opportunity for the older students to lead a small group and give encouragement from personal experience as well as from scripture.

Lori said, "Basically, we are encouraging kids to be active 60 minutes a day for 5

days a week and we're hoping they become more aware of the habits that contribute to their health."



several field trips. The students have been able to go ice skating, bowling, cross-country skiing, sledding, play disc golf, and other fun physical activities.

One of the course objectives of the Physical Education class at ACS is the development and understanding of choices and commitments of taking care of the body God gave us. This was a great activity to help children understand this objective.

Throughout the school year, Lori makes staying active fun for the students by planning



Second Annual Bike-A-Thon

The second annual Bike-a-thon was a huge success despite some cool, cloudy, and windy conditions at Ada Hayden Park.

Before riding, Brad Baker, from the Ames Police Department, talked to the students about bicycle safety, and Ron, from Skunk River Bicycles, talked about bicycle maintenance.

The weather was not ideal, as it



was chilly with a rather strong wind, but students were determined to ride as many laps as possible.

Parents and siblings helped provide snacks, water and supervision. Riders got their cards punched each time they passed the shelter house.

After the ride, families and teachers joined students for sack lunches at the Ada Hayden shelter.

Students had received donations from friends and family, who pledged money for the laps that each student rode. After all the riding was finished and the laps were tallied, the children had collected over \$3500 in pledges. This was an increase of over \$2000 when compared to last year. Way to go bikers!

Fore!

Dust off those clubs, recruit a foursome, and join us for Ames Christian School's 3rd Annual 4 Person Best Shot Golf Outing at Coldwater Golf Links Friday, May 27, presented by Century 21 Real Estate. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a delicious lunch from Comfort Food & BBQ sponsored by Paul Livingston/Hunziker Realtors and Bill Gilbert/Consumer TV Guide/Shopper.

A shotgun start at noon begins the 18 hole golfing event. Participants will have an opportunity to win a car from Wilson Toyota and a Harley Davidson from Zylstra Cycle Company of Ames. First, Second, and Third place winners will receive prizes from Omaha Steaks. Last year about 130 golfers participated in this

fun event benefitting Ames Christian School. We hope even more join us this year.



Wells are working hard to provide a quality golf outing. Thank you to the committee for all your efforts!

If you are interested in being a sponsor, providing a foursome, or signing up as an individual and being added to a foursome, please contact Ames Christian School at 515-233-0772. We hope you will consider offering your support for Ames Christian School's commitment to offer personalized Christian education. See you at the golf outing!

The golf committee is comprised of Lisa Severseike, Jennifer Lohrbach, Mark and Rebecca Reisinger, Shannon Chieves, Mary Lynn Papin, Traci Jennings, Kris Ante, Ron Helland, Tina Hartzler, Peggy Smith, and Coby



The Solid Rock Café

Preschool through 6th grade combined choirs presented the spring musical play "Solid Rock Café". The musical was written by Pam Andrews and directed by school music teacher Laura Gardner.

The setting of the play took place in a café that is built on a massive rock. A small group of students

(Noah Ante, Golar Malaki, Isaac Schafbuch and Kurt Sernett) travelling to a music festival arrive at the café with several problems, including a lead singer with a sore throat, a drummer without his drums, and a broken down van. The staff at the Solid Rock Café (Drew Easley, Brandi Nikkel and Haley Yoder) helped to renew the bands' spirits with a few "recipes" from Chef Bubba's (Matt Windus) recipe book. Using scripture, the staff explained that even during



difficult times, we should build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus' word.

The scenes and songs reminded us of God's constant presence and help in our lives.

Following the performance, families, friends and students enjoyed refreshments at a reception in the church's foyer.



Volunteer Spotlight

Diana Kolodziej's volunteer motto states, "I love the school and by me helping out any little bit, it will keep ACS going strong."

Her enthusiasm for Ames Christian School is very evident by all that she is involved with. A busy mom of three boys, a student at ISU and a dedicated volunteer at ACS. It's hard to know where she finds the time to do it all!



Diana is the Box Tops for Education coordinator, Campbell's soup label coordinator, Land O Lakes and Swiss Valley 5 cent milk caps coordinator, room mom, and helps teach computer class to the 5th and 6th grade students. Whew!

Diana has inspired the children to

bring in Box Tops by holding a monthly coloring contest. There is one winner per grade level. The winner then receives a hand-made pillowcase that Diana's mother has graciously made. The coloring sheets have places where the children can affix Box Tops, so it's a great way to have kids involved in collecting for the school. This year, Diana has earned almost \$700 cash for ACS. This money has been used to cover shipping costs of the clothing donations sent to India and to buy software to be used with the new SMART board.

Diana had a goal of obtaining 10,000 points with Campbell's soup labels, but quickly found that she needed to raise that goal to 18,000! So far, ACS has collected over 19,100 points. These points have been redeemed and here a few of the items obtained: balls for P.E., CD player, headphones, magnifying glasses, paint brushes, and a drawing/activity set. All items were needed and are used in

various classrooms.

Diana and her mother took the initiative last fall when HyVee had a contest for schools to enter and win a SMART Board. They worked as a team to get ACS entered into the contest and when other parents became involved we were able to stay at the top and win the SMART Board. It is currently being used in Mrs. Earnest's 3rd and 4th grade classroom.

Finally, Diana volunteered to teach computer skills to the 5th and 6th grade students. She has been showing them how to use Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint programs.

Thank you Diana!



Are You Telling Your Friends About ACS? – Jeff Sernett, Board President

As the school year comes to a close, the school board has been reviewing enrollment numbers for this fall and current numbers are the highest we have seen in several years. This is great news, yet we have plenty of room for more students to share in the quality education all of our students have enjoyed. We want to ask each family to think of one or two new families they know and bring them to the school for a tour. Our administrator, Mrs. Smith, and development director, Coby Wells, are available to schedule and host tours.

Childcare Program Ready to Grow

August will mark the first full year of our Christian childcare program being offered. We were blessed by enough children to make this first year very successful in establishing a quality program. The childcare and preschool programs are rated Level 4 out of 5 on the Iowa QRS (Quality Rating System). Julie Long, ACS Early Childhood Director, has worked diligently to achieve the Level 4 rating. Please spread the word about ACS childcare!

Building Loan Renewal Process

The school board is actively involved in renewing our current building loan which ends in July, 2011. Our current loan amount is approximately \$935,000. If you, or those you know, would like to contribute to lowering the principle amount though a donation prior to our renewal, we would be glad to visit with you in the very near future. Please contact me at j_s_sernett@prairieinet.net. The building loan is our second largest expense each month.



Upcoming Events

May

- 20 4 year old preschool graduation 9:30 am
- 24 Field Day at school 12:30-2:45
- 24 Awards/Picnic at Brookside Park 5:30-7:30
- 27 Last day of school – early dismissal
- 27 Golf Outing 11:00am

June

- 7 School Board Meeting 6:30pm

July

- 12 School Board Meeting 6:30pm

August

- 9 School Board Meeting 6:30pm

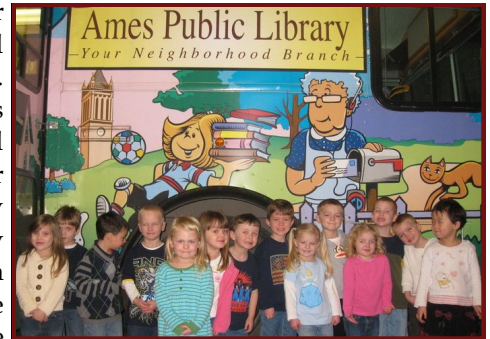
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Preschool Graduation

The class of 2011 four year old preschool children will be graduating on Friday, May 20th. The ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose room at the school. The children will perform songs they have learned throughout the school year. Mrs. Long will then present the children with a special surprise to remember their time at Ames Christian Preschool. A short reception with cake and punch will follow the ceremony. All parents and grandparents are invited to attend.

Preschool “Checks Out” the Library

In March, the three and four year old classes made a special visit to the Ames Public Library. They were greeted by Miss Kathy who gave a wonderful tour of the library. The tour began in the children’s library where the children could play with hand puppets, and watch the fish in the aquarium. She showed the children where the books go after they disappear into the return book drop outside of the library. The children then visited the bus barn where the book mobile is parked and Snyles the library dog lives. Every child was able to pick a book from the bookmobile and check it out to bring back to their classroom. After the tour, Miss Kathy read Library Lion to the children in the storybook room. It was a fun time had by all!



Students Advance to National Handwriting Competition

Ames Christian School promotes many aspects of a quality education. One of those many aspects is good, legible handwriting. A few months ago, kindergarten teacher, Carol Baedke read an article about two children in Wisconsin who had won an award in a handwriting contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser publishers. Since ACS uses Zaner-Bloser handwriting curriculum, Mrs. Baedke thought the school should consider participating in the competition. Administrator Peggy Smith agreed, and the students in grades 1-6 submitted a handwriting sample. The classroom teachers selected a winner for each grade, and the students' work was submitted for the contest. In March, Mrs.

Smith was informed that out of 200,000 winners in Iowa, two ACS students were selected as State winners. There were a total of 16 student winners chosen in Iowa, two students per grade. Ames Christian School is very pleased to announce that two students, 4th grader Benjamin May and 3rd grader Gabe Ante, will now move on to the National level of the competition.

Benjamin and Gabe are taught by teacher Faith Earnest. Each student received a certificate and an engraved gold medal from Zaner-Bloser. In addition, the school received a \$200 gift certificate thanks to each student, totaling \$400 toward the purchase of Zaner-Bloser materials.

ACS is very proud of Ben, Gabe, and all the students who participated. Excellence in education is demonstrated through the diligent work of our students.

Congratulations to Ben and Gabe!

